The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

Entered as second-class matter September 21, 1917, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 31, 1918.

VOL. 9. NO. 27. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1919. WHOLE NO. 443.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" PLAN OPPOSED BY GOMPERS

Washington, Sept. 27.—"Suffer little children to come unto me" assertfully declared President Gompers before the senate interstate commerce committee in opposing that portion of the Cummins railroad bill which would prohibit strikes of railroad employes.

The bill would compel employes to accept any decision of five men appointed by the president, and in this selection of which the workers would have no choice. If they rejected the decision and suspended work to enforce equitable conditions they would be subject to fine and imprisonment.

President Gompers used every weapon in his oratorical arsenal against this proposal and recounted the numerous failures of law makers to shackle workers to their jobs. While the trade unionist pleaded with the committee to reject this unconstitutional and un-American bill, he did not confine his efforts to this method, but warned the senators that instead of stopping strikes they would develop lawbreakers and that "there would be no more assistance about participating in a strike after its passage than I do now."

"The labor movement," continued President Gompers, "deplores strikes and only uses them as a last resort, for they know the suffering that follows strikes. Now I tell you in all candor that the American worker will not surrender his right to quit his employment as a last resort to adjust grievances and I would not if I live one minute after that right was taken from him."

President Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers told the committee he felt the most reactionary of all the railroad legislation so far proposed.

"It is dangerous," he said, "because it is clothed in progressive phrases. It is subtly in the interest of capital. It not only denies workers the right to strike, but it denies them a voice in the selection of the final arbiters who will pass upon their demands."

Glenn E. Plumb said: "Strikes are, symptoms of social maladies not causes. You propose to treat the symptoms and let the social fever rage."

$23.85 WEEKLY AVERAGE.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 27.—A new record for the weekly earnings of factory workers was made in August. Reports from 1,648 manufacturers to the state industrial council show that the weekly amount paid to employes averaged $23.86 in August. The previous high mark was $23.18 for last December.

Weekly earnings of factory workers gained on food prices from July to August. The August increase was 7 cents, or one cent higher than the July average, while the advance in food prices for the month was 1 per cent, according to the index number of the United States Bureau of labor statistics.

Factory employes worked shorter hours and their weekly earnings were 12 per cent greater in August than a year previous. The August, 1919, average of $23.86, compared with the $16.44 for August, 1917; $14.44 for August, 1916, and $12.76 for August, 1915. For June, 1914, shows an increase over these months of 65 per cent, 65 per cent, 85 per cent and 88 per cent, respectively.

CIGAR MAKERS GET RAISE.

Madison, Wis., Sept. 27.—Cigar Makers' union No. 182 has advanced its prices $2 and $4 per 1,000. Manufacturers here say they have met the price and those in Sun Prairie and Oregon, which fall within the union's jurisdiction, it is presumed will also accept.

San Pedro, Cal., Sept. 27. — All cigar manufacturers in the city are paying the new bill of prices prepared by a committee representing the Cigar Makers' union No. 222. The increase was granted after a brief but friction-laden fight. The manufacturers are realizing that the demands were not unreasonable.

WON THEIR DEMANDS.

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 27.—Nearly 100 members of the bricklayers' union are now employed at $1 a day increase in wages, the result of a short work to enforce the demand. The bricklayers were not conceded any wage increase, but by their employers impressing the thought on their minds that to make any such a demand would be unpatriotic. Realizing that that plea no longer had any force they forced the concession from the Master Builders' association.

BRICKLAYERS WIN $1 HOUR.

Wilmington, Del., Sept. 27. — Bricklayers' union, which recently won a wage increase from 87½ cents to 94.25 an hour, has announced that the entire membership is now working for $1 an hour, the rate agreed upon until the advance demanded in Philadelphia is determined. If the increase in that city is higher than $1 it will be the same will be paid in Wilmington.

TELEPHONE GIRLS WIN.

Shawnee, Okla., Sept. 27.—Telephone operators have secured an agreement with the Bell Telephone company after a two-weeks' strike. All demands have been granted, except wages, which will be referred to the state corporation commission, acting as arbitrators.

LAUNDRIES TIED UP.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Sept. 27.—All steam laundries in Cheyenne were paralyzed by a walkout of the non-union employes. Approximately 100 girls and women quit work as a result of the inability of the executives of the union and the laundry managements to agree on a new wage scale.

SETTLE AT $7 A DAY.

New York, Sept. 27.—Sheet Metal Workers' union No. 28 has accepted the offer of the employers' association of $7 per day, to go into effect October 1 and continue to May 1, 1921. The increase is $1 per day and includes the entire membership of 2,000.

W UNIONS FORMED.

Sept. 27.—Secretary Wm. ...n of the Amalgamated ...l Workers International announces the formation ...unions in the last few ...

PRESIDENT FAVORS FRANK DISCUSSION

San Diego, Cal., Sept. 27.—Speaking at a dinner, President Wilson discussed the relations of capital and labor.

"When I find a man who in a public meeting will not state his side of his case," he said, "I know that the side of the case is the losing side, that he dare not state it, and at the heart of most of our industrial difficulties, my fellow citizens—and most of you are a witness to this—lies the unwillingness of men to get together and talk it over.

"Half of the temper which now exists between those who differ in labor and those who direct labor is due to the fact that those who direct labor won't talk differences over with the men whom they employ. I am in every such instance convinced that they dare not talk it over. Not only that, but every time the two sides get together and talk it over together they come out of the conference in a different temper from that with which they went in.

"There is nothing that affects the attitude of men like conference. In laying their minds alongside in a fair and manly and open comparison."

FOOD PRICES SOAR.

Washington, Sept. 27.—Latest reports indicate that the increase in August were 1 per cent higher than in July, according to the bureau of labor statistics. In analyzing the report the bureau says: "That the report under review does not reflect the total cost of 21 articles of food, upon which this comparison is based, the highest on record."

The bureau further shows that since August, 1913, prices have increased 13 per cent, and that during the year previous, from August, 1913, to 1919, food prices increased 51 per cent. These figures disprove most conclusively the claim that is being made in certain quarters that the cost of living is decreasing, and is misleading and apparently given out for the purpose of deceiving the public. Except for meats, which show slight decreases, price increases were in the article most largely used.

The increase in August prices took place during the height of the government's campaign to reduce living expenses. At the same time, all official records show that wholesale prices and prices paid producers fell slightly. That puts the responsibility for the increases on the middlemen and retailers.

EMIGRATION ONLY NORMAL.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The hysteria that existed in America among many bankers and employers of cheap labor for fear the signing of the armistice, caused by widely circulated a story that millions of foreigners would flock to Europe for their homes and take with them about the billions of their savings, is not verified by the report just issued by Commissioner General of Immigration, Caminetti. The document shows that only 102,515 foreigners have left the United States since the armistice was signed and a total of only 123,522 during the 12 months ending June 30, 1919.

For the five years ended June 30, 1919, 643,225 emigrants left the U. S. 113.76 for June, 1914, shows an increase over these months of 6 per cent, 6 per cent, 85 per cent and 88 per cent, respectively.

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BRITISH UNIONS INCREASE.

London, England, September 27. — Wage advances increasing the purchasing power of British trades unions is shown in trades union congress report just issued, which give the present total membership of bodies affiliated with the congress as 6,845,000, an increase of 2,222,000 just before the war and 1,482,000 in 1918.

The most startling increase noted is the membership of the agricultural laborers' union, which now is 200,000 last year, but today is 180,000 seventeen other unions have made increases during the past year of more than 10,000.

THEIR STRIKE.

Sept. 27.—The strike of the Lumber workers, in progress for the last 10 days, has been won. The company has agreed to pay the scale and not discriminate against any of the men for their union activity. This camp will start up at once with their old crew.

The strikes in the other mills and camps of British Columbia have not yet been settled.

HAVE RESUMED WORK.

Denver, Col., Sept 27.—A number of the large companies under jurisdiction of increased wages demanded by the five building trades, 35 per hour. Some of the contractors are protesting the payment of the price named, claiming the wage scale should have been the award of the state industrial commission which fixed the rate at 87½ cents per hour.

STRIKE-SETTLED.

Denver, Col., Sept. 27.—The strike of the Tailors' union has been settled by the employers accepting the proposed scale of $25.50 per week for tailors and pressers and $27.50 for women helpers.

...es in an increase per week for pressers of $19 and $7.50 for tailors and helpers.

MANY SOCIAL ISSUES DISCUSSED IN CANADA

Ottawa, Ontario, Sept. 27.—At the national industrial conference of federal and provincial ministers, with equal representation of employers and employes selected by their representative organizations and a third group, representing public interests, resolutions favoring the following subjects were unanimously passed:

Unification of existing Dominion and provincial labor laws.

Formation of bureau under minister of labor to promote establishment of local industrial councils.

Proposed government investigation of proportional representation.

Appointment of board of inquiry to report on unemployment, sickness and old age insurance.

Extension of existing provincial minimum wage laws and better pay for school teachers.

United efforts of federal and provincial authorities to improve housing conditions.

Equal educational opportunities for all classes, free education in all grades and compulsory attendance up to 18 years.

Liberty of the press and freedom of speech.

Each group, through committees, made special reports on the eight-hour day. Employes recommended immediate adoption of eight-hour legislation, while other groups favored investigation. On the right to organize, collective bargaining and collective bargaining the employers' and employes' special committees again divided. The former asserted the right of employes to join lawful organizations but insisted that there really existing employers should not be required to negotiate except directly with their own employes.

The employes did not insist on the principle, pending the passage of proper legislation to prevent discharge of workers because of trade union membership or activity.

The conference took no position on these divisions, but recommended the various recommendations in their report.

The federal and provincial prime ministers have promised that the conference recommendations will receive immediate attention.

CONCENTRATION DESIRED.

Washington, Sept. 27.—Reducing the number of government employees now doing statistical researches is sought by Chairman Good, of the house committee on appropriations, in an amendment to first deficiency appropriation bill authorizing the bureau of efficiency to investigate the scope of statistics required by the government and the methods of compiling statistical information by the various executive departments.

"About ten different agencies of the government are collecting information relating to consumption of meat," explained Good. "Slight different agencies are collecting information on the distribution of coal. Six different agencies are collecting information relating to cost of coal and the cost of coal on imports. We had nine different agencies collecting information on the price of coal. Now, something ought to be done to stop this practical waste of time in the methods of collecting statistical information."

TO TEST RIGHT TO STRIKE.

Racine, Wis., Sept. 27.—A trial which involves the right of unions to strike and what damages can be collected from them if it is found to be in the courts here. Last spring Machinists' union No. 47 demanded shorter hours, higher wages and shorter hours, and when the Webster Electric company refused to meet them, declared the union machinists in the company's employ should go out. Since then the union has continued the fight in the ordinary way. The company has secured suit against the union and filed a statement that it desires to recover damages against the defendants by reason of a wrongful and unlawful conspiracy, combination and agreement entered into by them for the purpose of doing injury to the plaintiff's property and injuring and destroying its business by threatening and intimidating employes and preventing them by force and violence and unlawful means from entering plaintiff's employ. That due to this the products of the plaintiff's factory have been reduced and its profits diminished."

ACCEPT NEW AGREEMENT.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 27.—The steel shipyards of the Columbia river district have accepted the agreement entered into by the San Francisco conference for the whole Pacific coast. The agreement is effective from October 1 to April 1 of next year, with a provision that a meeting be held in January to be called in February to consider any changes at that time desired by either party. Among other things it provides a horizontal increase of wages of 8 cents an hour.

Employers in all coast cities have been represented except in Los Angeles, where a strike has been on for some weeks.

SECURE NEW AGREEMENT.

St. Johns, New Brunswick, Sept. 27.—The Street and Electric Railway employes' union negotiated an agreement with St. Johns Street Railway company that provides for a nine-hour day. Wages are fixed at 29 cents per hour for the first six months, 31 cents for the second six months, 33 cents thereafter. Time and a half will be paid for all Sunday work. Since the formation of the union wages of the employes have been doubled and hours materially reduced.

EMPLOYERS FORCE ISSUE.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The labor department officials report that the number of men actually idle through strikes probably amounts to 200,000 at the present time.

Refusal of employers to recognize the union is the principal cause of strikes which the labor department is investigating, officials say, but in many cases, they say, organized labor is pushing the fight for recognition under pretenses. In some of the strikes wage demands is a secondary cause. In most, however, the "closed shop" demand is the right of collective bargaining.

75 CENTS DAY ADVANCE.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 27.—The Horseshoers' union advanced its wage rate 75 cents a day, secured a half holiday and a minimum of $6.25 a day.

NEW UNION FORMED.

Peoria, Ill., Sept. 27.—An Elevator Constructors' union is the newest organization to be added to the list of unions in this city.

FEDERAL OWNERSHIP FAVORED BY FARMERS

Washington, Sept. 27.—A vigorous protest against further extension of control of the railroads to their private owners was injected into the house interstate commerce committee by Benjamin C. Marsh, representing the Farmers' National council.

Mr. Marsh declared the over-whelming majority of the farmers of America favor government ownership and operation of railroads, not the transportation systems. He pointed out that organized labor is solidly in favor of the same policy and said the movement is growing rapidly among other classes. The plan of the stockholders of Wall street, he said, is "to guarantee at the present owners is being underrated."

"I believe it is a waste of time," Mr. Marsh told the committee, "for congress to consider any bill which does not provide relief to the present owners under any form of government whatever."

These are the chief reasons he assigned for government ownership and democratic operation of the roads:

"1. To secure lower freight rates and equality of service.

"2. Neither the farmers nor the city workers can trust Wall street to stop its looting of the roads if the railroads are returned to the same control. Congress has proved stopped it in the past.

"3. The farmers and organized labor are disgusted with the way in which the stockholders and management of the railroads committed sabotage during the war to discredit government ownership.

"4. Private ownership of railroads no matter how safeguarded, will always be the most corrupting force in political life."

REPORTERS FORM UNIONS.

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 27.—A union of newspaper writers, affiliated with the International Typographical union has been organized in this city and demands have been presented to the publishers of the four daily papers for a minimum wage of $30 a week for experienced reporters.

Similar efforts are now more than three-fourths of the newspaper writers have joined the union and others, including editors, are expected to join.

It was said that the publishers of the four papers would be asked if the salary question on condition that their reporters withdraw from the union, but experience voted to stand by the organization.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 27.—The wives of the striking steel workers followed the lead of their brethren in other cities and formed a union composed entirely of women. A charter will be secured from the International Auxiliary council.

A committee has been selected to sign up the newspaper men in the Wheeling district.

STILL USE THE LASH.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 27.—Alabama is the last state in the United States to end the inhuman system of employing convicts on the public roads, according to Representative Orr, $0 per cent of all who contract tuberculosis while in prison, die upon their sentences, get that disease. He introduced a bill to take them from the mines and from private employment and to place them on the public roads. Orr said he was against the modern theory of penal servitude, but insisted that the convicts emerge from confinement better in health than when they entered, whereas the Alabama system makes the convict a confirmed victim of society. Chairmen with whips drive the prisoners to work in the mines on the roads that would have to be decently treated. It is feared that Governor Kilby will not sign the bill, as he does not permit the working of convicts in state-owned mines.

GERMAN DELEGATES TO COME

Washington, Sept. 27.—An official dispatch received here from Paris by the American Federation of Labor declares that the council of the allied peace conference, has decided to permit German representatives to appear before the international labor conference to be held in Washington in October.

The announcement, the dispatch says, followed a conference between the council of ten and Samuel Gompers, general secretary of the General Labor Federation. The dispatch characterizes "took a broad view." The dispatch adds that this decision is regarded as a great victory for liberalism.

MOVIE WORKERS OUT.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 27. — Four hundred and fifty stage electricians, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' union and the contractors, a strike was adjusted that has been in effect for a week. The terms of the settlement are that the men shall be given a 25 cent raise, which would be 12 cents an hour, until Oct. 1. Then they will be given $9 cents an hour, and their working conditions will practically be the same as they were before the strike was called. The union has been demanding recognition of their scale and an increase in wages of approximately 31 a day. Several of the studios have already agreed to the demands and others are expected to fall in line.

WHERE SUCCESS COUNTED.

St. Catharines, Ontario, Sept. 27.—The success of the metal trades council union went out for a 44-hour week and a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour, and a mutual memorandum of the union amounted to 20. But when the strike was settled on August 11, it ended in a victory for the organization, the council having been formed in 1918 and the craft was 100 per cent organized.

AN ADVANCE SECURED.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 27.—Iron Workers' union has raised wages to $6 a day for journeymen, $5 a day for assistant foremen and $9 a day for foremen.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 27.—Structural Iron Workers' district council has secured an advance of $1 a day, making the new rate $8 and $9.

UNIONS NOT TRUSTS DECLARES CONGRESS

Washington, Sept. 27.—The house rejected the amendment offered by Representative Fess of Ohio to the deficiency appropriation bill that provided funds for the prosecution of illegal combinations under the federal antitrust law. He purpose in offering the amendment was to classify the trade unions and farmers' associations with trusts. Then he would accomplish by amending the law which says that no money authorized for the enforcement of the antitrust law "shall be spent in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any combination or agreement having in view the increase of wages," or "shall be expended for the prosecution of prosecution of farm products and associations of farmers who co-operate with labor unions," and for the purpose to obtain and maintain a fair and reasonable price for farm products.

These exemptions, which have been carried in the appropriation bills for a number of years, have excited bitter opposition, and those intelligently in touch with unions and the farmers' associations have never permitted the law to pass in an attempt to eliminate them from the appropriation bill.

When the house was in committee of the whole, Mr. Fess succeeded in securing the adoption of his amendment to cut out the appropriation, the vote being 53 to 19. When the bill was reported to the house, the contest was over the amendment offered by the minority leader.

Following the action of the committee of the whole, representatives of labor and the farmers' associations got busy. As a result of their activities the Fess amendment was defeated. On the demand of Representative Nolan, of California, a member of the labor group, for the reconsideration, the section of the deficiency appropriation bill carrying the exemptions was restored by a roll-call vote of 200 to 23.

PAINTERS ADVANCE.

Temple, Texas, Sept. 27.—Commencing with the 15th inst. the wages of Painters and Decorators' union was increased from $5 to $6 per day. The increase was secured by the union of painters on presentation of the new rates without any trouble. That action was probably influenced by the fact that the union has a 100 per cent organization.

Bay City, Mich., Sept. 27.—As the result of a conference between the employing painters and the executive committee of the union an agreement was reached which terminated a three-weeks' strike. The new regulations of the new rates the pay will be 75 cents an hour, and a 44-hour week. Besides the co-operative shops they had arranged to establish.

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 27.—To-morrow there will be a meeting of the F. of L., as a result of negotiations with the Cigar Manufacturers' association, when a 44-hour week and an increase of $2 per week in wages.

SHOW APPRECIATION.

Edmonton, Alberta, Sept. 27.—The members of Edmonton local Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union have taken a very practical way to show their appreciation of the scale that their organization has secured from the 18 members, by unanimous vote, decided to donate to each man the sum of their first week's increase under the new scale. The increase will range from $3 to $4.50 per week.

Sioux City, Iowa, Sept. 27.—Pressmen's union has signed a new scale with the employing publishers which fixes these rates: Foremen, $6 per day or night journeymen, $5.50, and apprentices for the first year, $3 and a graded rate until he completes his time.

URGES CLERGY TO STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 27.—A nation-wide strike of the clergy unless wages they are granted higher salaries, was advocated in a statement issued here by Charles A. McAlpine, a member of the national committee of Northern Baptist laymen.

"If I were still a pastor and my salary was not more than $1,000 per annum, which is the amount received by the average clergyman in our denomination, I'd strike and I'd tell my members," said Mr. McAlpine, who pastor there were 1,000 underpaid clergymen soon unless ministers are better compensated for their services, better compensated and day laborers."

GRANTED AN ADVANCE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 27.—At a meeting of the conference committee of the National Association of Pressed and Blown Glassware and Bottle Manufacturers, in which a wage increase was agreed upon, amounting to 15 per cent, effective September 2, covering the iron molders' department. A slight increase was also conceded the cutter's place shops, where four men constitute a shop. The increase in the iron department were reduced to four cents.

SECURED 44-HOUR WEEK.

Toronto, Ontario, Sept. 27.—Members of the Electrical Workers' union employed by the Toronto Electric Light company have been able to secure, as the result of the intercession of the board of conciliation, a 44-hour week and an increase in pay to 75 cents an hour. The men formerly had an actual advance of 20 per cent. The agreement was reached without a strike vote, the arbitration board and recommendations resulted from its advice that the corresponding parts reach a mutual agreement.

SPEEDED HIM UP.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Sept. 27.—Responding to repeated and insistent demands of the Australian Workers' union in the Ayr district, the minister of railways has consented to the immediate construction of railroad lines now building in order to give work to the unemployed. It is estimated that 1,000 of the unemployed have gone to work on the railroad lines.

WAGE INCREASE SECURED.

San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 27.—Cooks' union No. 44 reports that it has organized practically all of the hotels, cafes, restaurants and hospitals in the city and secured for its members an increase in wages ranging from $5 to $5 per cent.

AMSTERDAM CONFERENCE.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The reports of Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison, J. Tobin and John J. Hynes, delegating to the Amsterdam conference of the International Federation of Trade Unions, will be published in the October issue of the American Federationist.

It is a most complete resume of the proceedings and should be read by every trade unionist. The success of the American Federation of Labor's delegation in advancing the cause of labor the world over along lines following the principles of democracy, as practiced in this country was complete. History will designate this conference as the turning point toward practical progress in the European trade union movement.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS.

Tours, France, Sept. 27.—Honorary President William J. Heller, of the Federation of Teachers' unions of America, has received greetings following greetings, throughthe American Teacher, to the American Federation of Teachers:

"I have the honour to transmit to you the greetings of the Federation of Teachers unions of France in convention assembled in Tours, August 26, 1919. The teachers of France wish to convey, through me, an expression of their cordial feelings to their American brothers and sisters. Like them they have for their ideal the right to the fight of its choosing—for the social approach, and to bring about democracy in education and the emancipation of the teacher from all class oppression. Comrades in arms, they desire also to be comrades in peace. It is the ideal of humanity which will realize the highest aspirations of their society. They salute the field of unionism to accomplish these aims. Once more they extend fraternal greetings to their American comrades and hope that in the future more intimate relations may be established between the teaching forces of America and France. The permanent representative of all France, thus officially establishes the first bond of union between the Federation of Teachers union of France and the American Federation of Teachers."

INCREASES DEFERRED.

Washington, Sept. 27.—No wage increases will be granted at this time by the shipping board or workers in shipyards engaged on government work representatives of the employees and the navy department decided at a conference held at the navy department.

After the conference, the following statement outlining the attitude of the conferees was issued:

"In view of the decision of the president in his recent address to employes that the general subject of readjustment of wages, hours and working conditions be deferred pending the efforts being made at the present time to bring about peace in the mines, and in view of the general decision that it is not advisable at this time in any way interfere with a return to more normal conditions throughout the country, it has been decided to continue the existing scale paid in the shipyards and navy yards, the existing government work in effect after October 1.

"The scale is the last of the so-called Macy board awards. This will expire on April 1, 1920. Work could great lakes and gulf."

FOUNDRY WORKERS STRIKE.

Manchester, England, Sept. 27.—A strike of foundry workers in 20 municipalities was held in Manchester to review the position with regard to the demand for advance of wages in the iron foundry trade and the probability of a national stoppage of work by the whole of their members, numbering nine. It was decided that, in view of the failure of their efforts to avoid a national stoppage, they were guided by the decision of their members by vote at the national conference and thus enjoined the whole of their members to cease work.

The conference met the employers in conference on two occasions, but the employers have refused definitely to state that they would not consider any application for an advance in wages.

SOUTHERN AUTOCRAT.

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 27.—A former member of the Macon fire department has taken into custody here by the police chief on orders of the mayor, it was said he had learned that he was attempting to organize a firemen's union here. It was stated he had resigned from the police department for the purpose of explaining matters and organizing the union. He was released on $1,000 bond.

ACCEPTED THE FINDING.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sept. 27.—When the dispute arose here between the street car company and the union men in its employ an agreement was made to submit their differences to arbitration. The board awarded the workers a rate of 42 cents an hour for the first six months; 49 cents the second; 55 cents for the third and 60 cents for the fourth and subsequent years, on a 48-hour week basis. The maximum rate previously was 47 cents and the hours nine per day.

SETTLED BY MEDIATION.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 27.—Settlement of the coal dock strike which has been in effect for several days was brought to a successful termination through the efforts of a state mediator. The order the new agreement the men are to receive a 5 cent per hour increase, which means a scale of wage ranging from 55½ cents an hour to 70 cents. The former scale was from 50 per cent increase. The agreement terminates September 15, 1920.

AN ACCEPTABLE RATE.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 27.—Art Glass Workers union No. 27 has secured a satisfactory agreement with employers. The men are to receive 55 cents an hour up to November 1, from that date until September 1, 1920, the wage rate will be 75 cents.

NEW COAL DRIVERS' UNION.

Hamilton, Ontario, Sept. 27.—New union of Coal Drivers and Helpers has been formed here and is working to make itself felt as local factor in trade union movements.

Autocracy Of Steel Trust Forces Nation-Wide Strike

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 27.—The refusal of Judge Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States steel corporation (the trust), to grant a conference to representatives of his employes has precipitated a strike that is almost nation-wide and directly involves half a million workers. Within 36 hours after the strike was called the United States senate unanimously passed a resolution to investigate the strike and demands were immediately forwarded to Judge Gary and John Fitzpatrick, chairman of the national committee, to organize the iron and steel workers.

For the past year a score of national and international unions, acting through this committee, have conducted an organizing campaign in the iron and steel industry. The unionists have been resisted by the well-known tactics of the trust, but despite a denial of the right of free speech, free assemblage and other privileges, the workers have rallied to the unions. Recently the committee made formal request of the trust for a conference, that wages and working conditions might be discussed.

Judge Gary declined the request on the ground that the committee did not represent his employes. Later the judge issued a long statement in which he declared "the open shop," which, he said, his corporation had "always had." The number of men who have responded to the strike call, however, seems to have blocked the trust's plan to make the fight of its choosing—for the open shop—and to bring about the shop, which the trust calls "closed" shop.

Many subsidiaries of the trust have closed their plants, although the strike's status is not nearly as hopeful as those of General Leaders during the closing months of the great war.

Officials of the American Sheet and Tin Plate company at Gary, Ind., claim they are satisfied with conditions, but the strikers point to the north star which is visible for the first time since the plant was established. It is the first time the northern heavens failed to reflect the bright red glow of the blast furnace, which obstructed the view of the stars.

In western Pennsylvania, where the strike situation inspected responses to the call, and steel officials now find that 4,000 thousands of foreigners whom they deported upon and who were brought to this country by the trust's agents, have joined hands with the strikers. With an attitude that is typical of certain large employing interests, the steel employers ignore the years of labor and the sacrifice rendered by these aliens and the public is now told that "only foreigners" are on strike.

London, England, Sept. 27.—The British press gives prominence to the strike of steel workers. In an editorial on this subject, the Daily Herald says:

"The struggle is for the fundamental principle of industrial freedom, the right of combination and collective bargaining. The steel industry in America is the last stronghold of the British in this respect."

REACHED AN AGREEMENT.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 27.—A new job scale, calling for 70 for day and $2 for night work, has been signed between representatives of Typographical union No. 46 and proprietors for job shops. Stockton has compromised on a basis of $2.50 per week, it over the present scale.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 27.—Members of the Typographical union, No. 49, who submitted a scale to the newspaper publishers calling for $35 weekly for day and $37 per night work, have appealed from the decision of the scale committee, who decided on a scale of $32 and $34. The appeal goes to the international executive council of publishers and representatives of the international union.

Erie, Pa., Sept. 27.—Members of the Typographical union proved themselves good politicians in the recent municipal election, for each of them secured the nominations they sought. Two were placed on the council ticket, the third as director of audit. Of the nominees for council, one was presidents of the typographical union and the other secretary.

RECALL ADAMSON LAW.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The oft-repeated rant of the railroad executives schools forced congress to pass the Adamson law, a measure which the law was denied by President Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at the recent convention of railroad bill which would provide for the compulsory arbitration of railroad disputes.

The story was recently denied by Senator Cummins, Chairman of the Order of Railway Conductors before a senate committee.

Senator Borah, on occasion to refute this yarn when a senator asked him: "Is it true?" Borah declared that by nationalization is meant the sending out of notices of the president we the four executive railroad brotherhoods to enforce our original demands. We didn't like the Adamson law then and we don't like it now."

FATALITIES INCREASED.

Washington, Sept. 27.—According to reports received by the bureau of mines from the state mine inspectors of all states except Kentucky, 2% men were killed during the first 6 months of the coal mines of the states reporting, as compared with 1,976 in the same states in June, 1918; thus the figures show an increase of 124 deaths over the records of the previous year. The increase was due to two big accidents in Illinois and Kansas. At the Cherry and Hudson Coal company, near Willsboro Harry, Pa., there were killed of 52 men, and the other at the Rock Springs Coal and Mining company, Alderson, Okla., which resulted in 15 men losing their lives.

GRADED RAISE ACCEPTED.

Rock Island, Ill., Sept. 27.—Tri-City Carpenters' unions, after a conference lasting a week, were successful in obtaining an increase from 75 to 80 cents per hour, effective August 1. The agreement covering year there will be a 2½-cent per hour increase until 87½ cents is reached in April, 1921.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 27.—Representatives of Carpenters' union and employers have reached an agreement on the wage question whereby hereafter $7 per day will be $8 per day on all new buildings.

FORCED RECOGNITION.

Rock Bay, British Columbia, Sept. 27.—Members of the Loggers' union notified the Hastings Logging company, one of the largest lumber camps near here, that they demanded more wages and better accommodations. The company's official refused to listen to their request and gave the men a week's notice. Two days after the expiration of the notice served by the workers the company completely recognized all of the strikers, which calls for a boosts a day increase, fruit for the tables, shower baths and a number of other improvements in their respective camps.

LAUNDRY GIRLS GET RAISE.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 21.—In a final conference with a committee of the Laundry Workers' union, the employers agreed to increase the wages of all girls getting under $18 a week by $1.50 a week more, making the minimum wage per week. One thousand women and girls are affected by the increase.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 21, 1917, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 27. WASHINGTON D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1919. WHOLE NO. 443.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" PLAN OPPOSED BY GOMPERS

Washington, Sept. 27.—"Suffer little children to come unto me" scornfully declared President Gompers before the senate interstate commerce committee in opposing that portion of the Cummins railroad bill which would prohibit "strikes of railroad employees."

The bill would compel employees to accept any decision of five men appointed by the president, and to this selection of which the workers would have no choice. If they rejected the decision and suspended work to enforce equitable conditions they would be subject to fine and imprisonment.

President Gompers used every weapon in his oratorical arsenal against this proposal and recounted the numerous failures of law attorneys to shackle workers to their jobs. Not one, the trade unionist pleaded with the committee to reject this unconstitutional and un-American bill. He did not confine his efforts to this method, but warned the senators that the task of stopping strikes they would develop lawbreakers and that "it would be no more honorable about participating in a strike after its passage than I do now".

"The labor movement," continued President Gompers, "deplores strikes and only uses them as a last resort, for they know the suffering that follows strikes. But I tell you in all candor that the American worker will not long surrender his right to quit his employment as a last resort to adjust grievances and I would not undertake one minute after that right was taken from him."

President Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers told the committee the bill was the most reactionary of all the railroad legislation so far proposed.

"It is dangerous," he said, "because it is clothed in progressive phrases. It is sodden in the interest-of capital. It not only denies workers the right to strike, but it denies them a voice in the selection of the final arbiters who will pass upon their demands."

Glenn T. Plumb said: "Strikes are symptoms of unrest—they are not causes. You propose to treat the symptoms and let the social fever rage."

$23.85 WEEKLY AVERAGE.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 27.—A new record for the weekly earnings in factory work was made in August. Reports from 1,648 manufacturers to the bureau of statistics show that the weekly amount paid to employes averaged $23.85 in August. This is the high mark for the past $23.31 for last December.

Weekly earnings of factory workers gained on food prices from July to August. The August rate was 2.3 per cents, or one cent higher than the July average, while the advance in food prices for the month was 1.9 per cent, according to the index number of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

Factory employes worked shorter hours and their weekly earnings were 12 per cent greater in August than a year previous. August, 1918, average earnings of $23.85, compared with the $21.41 for August, 1917; $14.44 for August, 1916, and $10.70 for August, 1915. For June, 1914, shows an increase during the months of 9 per cent, 65 per cent, 85 per cent and 88 per cent, respectively.

CIGAR MAKERS GET RAISE.

Madison, Wis., Sept. 27.—Cigar Makers' union No. 182 has advanced its prices $2 and 44 per 1,000. Madison manufacturers have met the price and those in Sun Prairie and Oregon, which fall under the union's jurisdiction, it is presumed will also accept.

San Pedro, Cal., Sept. 27. — All cigar manufacturers in the city are paying the new bill of prices presented by a committee representing the Cigar Makers' union No. 222. The increase was granted without much friction whatever, the manufacturers realizing that the demands were not unreasonable.

WON THEIR DEMANDS.

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 27.—Nearly 500 members of the Bricklayers' union are now employed at $1 a day increase in wages, the result of one week's work to enforce the demand. The bricklayers were not conceded any wage advance during the war, while employers impressing the thought on their minds that to make any such a demand would be unpatriotic. Realizing that that plea no longer had any force they forced the concession from the Master Builders' association.

BRICKLAYERS WIN $1 HOUR.

Wilmington, Del., Sept. 27. — Bricklayers' union, which recently went on strike to advance wages from 87½ cents to $1.25 an hour, has announced that the entire membership is now employed at $1 an hour, the rate agreed upon until the advance demanded by the union is determined. If the increase in that city is higher than $1 an hour the same will be paid in Wilmington.

TELEPHONE GIRLS WIN.

Shawnee, Okla., Sept. 27.—Telephone operators have secured an agreement with the Bell Telephone company of Oklahoma after a strike. All demands have been granted, except wages, which will be referred to the state corporation commission, acting as arbitrators.

LAUNDRIES TIED UP.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Sept. 27.—All steam laundries in Cheyenne were paralyzed by a walkout of the engineers and firemen. Approximately 300 girls and women quit work as a result of the utility of representatives of the union and the laundry managements to agree on a new wage scale.

SETTLE AT $7 A DAY.

New York, Sept. 27.—Sheet Metal Workers' union No. 28 has accepted the offer of the employers' association of $7 per day, to go into effect October 1 and expire January 1, 1921. The increase is $1 per day and includes the entire membership of 2,000.

NEW UNIONS FORMED.

Chicago, Sept. 27.—Secretary Wm. Sullivan of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance announces the formation of 21 new unions in the last few weeks.

PRESIDENT FAVORS FRANK DISCUSSION

San Diego, Cal., Sept. 27.—Speaking at a dinner, President Wilson discussed the relations of capital and labor.

"When I find a man who in a public matter will not state his side of his case," he said, "I know that his side of the case is the losing side; that he dare not state it, and at the heart of most of our industrial troubles is the unwillingness—and most of you are a witness to this—lies the unwillingness of men to get together and talk it over.

"Half of the temper which now exists between those who perform labor and those who direct labor is due to the fact that those who direct labor won't talk differences over with the men whom they employ. I am in every such instance convinced that they dare not talk it over. Not only that, but every time the two sides get together and talk it over together they come out of the conference in a different temper from that with which they went in.

"There is nothing that affects the attitude of men like really frankly laying their minds alongside in a fair and manly and open comparison.

FOOD PRICES SOAR.

Washington, Sept. 27.—Latest report from the bureau of labor statistics for August were 1 per cent higher than in July, according to the bureau of labor statistics. In analyzing the report the bureau says: "That the high cost of living continues to make life one minute after that right was taken from him."

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MANY SOCIAL ISSUES DISCUSSED IN CANADA

Ottawa, Ontario, Sept. 27.—At the national industrial conference of federal and provincial ministers, with equal representation of employers and employes selected by their representative organizations and a third group, representing public interests, resolutions favoring the following subjects were unanimously passed:

Unification of existing Dominion and provincial labor laws.

Formation of bureau under minister of labor to promote establishment of local industrial councils.

Proposed government investigation of provincial employment bureaus.

Appointment of board of inquiry to report, on unemployment, sickness and old age insurance.

Extension of existing provincial minimum wage laws and better pay for school teachers.

United efforts of federal and provincial authorities to improve housing conditions.

Special educational opportunities for all classes, free education in all grades and compulsory attendance up to 18 years.

Liberty of the press and freedom of speech.

Each group, through committees, made special reports on the eight-hour day. Employes recommended immediate adoption of eight-hour legislation, while other groups favored investigation. On the right to organize, union recognition and collective bargaining the employers' and employes' special committees again divided. The former group admitted right of employes to join lawful organizations but insisted on "open" shop and that employers should not be compelled to negotiate except directly with their own shop.

The employes did not insist on the closed shop principle but requested legislation to prevent discharge of workers because of trade union membership or activity.

The conference took no position on the high cost of living, but simply insisted that the various recommendations in their report.

The federal and provincial prime ministers have promised that the conference recommendations will receive immediate attention.

CONCENTRATION DESIRED.

Washington, Sept. 27.—Reducing the number of government employes making statistical researches is sought by Chairman Good, of the house committee on appropriations, by an amendment to first deficiency appropriation bill authorizing the bureau of efficiency to investigate the scope of statistics required by the departments and the methods of assembling statistical information by the several executive departments.

"About ten different agencies of the government are collecting information on the construction industry," explained Good. "Eight different agencies are collecting information on the distribution of coal. Six different agencies are collecting information on the exports of coal and the same on imports. We had nine different agencies collecting information on price of coal. Now something ought to be done to bring practical sense to bear upon the methods of collecting statistical information."

TO TEST RIGHT TO STRIKE.

Racine, Wis., Sept. 27.—A trial in which involves the right of unions to strike and what damages can be collected for so doing is to be held in the courts here. Last spring Machinists' union No. 47 demanded an eight-hour day, time-and-a-half for overtime, higher wages and shorter hours, and when the Webster Electric company refused to meet the demands the union machinists in the company's employ struck. Since then the union has continued the fight in the ordinary way. The company has entered suit against the union and filed a statement that "it desires to recover damages against the defendants by reason of a wrongful and unlawful conspiracy, combination and association entered into by them for the purpose of doing injury to the plaintiff's property and injuring and destroying its business by threatening and intimidating its employes and coercing them by force and violence and unlawful means to leave the plaintiff's employ." That due to the trial products of the plaintiff's factory have been reduced and its profits diminished."

ACCEPT NEW AGREEMENT.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 27.—The steel shipyards of the Columbia river district have accepted the agreement offered by Grand Lodge Pacific coast conference for the whole Pacific coast, which provides for increases from October 1 to April 1 of next year, with a provision that another conference may be held in February to consider any changes at that time. Honolulu claims to be included. Among other things it provides a horizontal increase of wages of 5 cents an hour.

Employes in all coast cities have now accepted unexpired part of Los Angeles, where a strike has been on for some weeks.

SECURE NEW AGREEMENT.

St. Johns, New Brunswick, Sept. 27.—The Street and Electric Railway employes' division negotiated a new agreement with St. Johns Street Railway company that provides for increases. Motor car unions have received 25 cents per hour for the first six months, 27½ cents for the second, 30 cents for the second year, and 35 cents thereafter, with 4 cents added for all Sunday work. Since the formation of the union wages of the employes have been doubled and hours materially reduced.

EMPLOYERS FORCE ISSUE.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The labor department officials report that the number of men actually idle through strikes probably number 300,000 to 400,000 at the present time.

Refusal of employers to recognize the union is the principal cause of strikes which the labor department is connecting to meet the situation. Especially, say, that organizing labor is pushing the campaign for union recognition, while some of the strikes are wage demands as a secondary cause. In most, however, the only demand is the right of collective bargaining.

75 CENTS DAY ADVANCE.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 27.—The Horseshoers' union advanced its wage rate 75 cents a day, secured a half holiday and a minimum of $5.25 a day.

NEW UNION FORMED.

Peoria, Ill., Sept. 27.—An Elevator Constructors' union is the newest organization to be added to the list of unions in this city.

FEDERAL OWNERSHIP FAVORED BY FARMERS

Washington, Sept. 27.—A vigorous protest by farmers against the return of the railroads to their private owners was presented to the house interstate commerce committee by Benjamin C. Marsh, representing the farmers' National council.

Mr. Marsh declared the overwhelming majority of the farmers of America favor government ownership and operation of the railroads as the transportation systems. He pointed out that organized labor is solidly in favor of the same policy and said the sentiment is growing rapidly among the general public. The plan of the stockholders of Wall street to get a big governmental guarantee with the return of the railroads to the present owners is being understood.

"We believe it is a waste of time," Mr. Marsh told the committee, "for congress to consider any plan for the return of the railroads to the present owners under any method or safeguard whatever. There are the two methods to be assigned for government ownership and democratic operation of the roads:

"1. To secure lower freight rates and equalize rates.

"2. Neither the farmers nor the city workers can trust Wall street to give public service. The public of the railroads are returned to the present owners Congress has never stopped it in the past.

"2. The farmers and organized labor are disgusted with the way in which the stockholders and managers of private railroads committed sabotage during the war to discredit government operation.

"4. Private ownership of railroads, no matter how safeguarded, will mean a powerful corrupting force in political life."

REPORTERS FORM UNIONS.

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 27.—A union of newspaper reporters, affiliated with the International Typographical union has been organized in this city and demands have been presented to the publishers of the four daily papers for a minimum wage of $30 a week for experienced reporters.

Union officials say more than three-fourths of the newspaper writers have joined the union and others, including all editors, are eligible to membership.

It was said that the publishers of one newspaper had offered to adjust the salary question on condition that their reporters withdraw from the union, a proposition voted to stand by the organization.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 27.—The entire force of sixty-eight linotypers followed the lead of their brethren in other cities and formed a union composed entirely of women. A charter will be secured from the International Typographical union. A committee has been selected to sign up all the newspaper men in the Wheeling district.

STILL USE THE LASH.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 27.—Alabama has not abolished convict labor to end the inhuman system of employing convicts in the mines, according to Representative Orr, 40 per cent of all who contract tuberculosis and die there, report upon their sentences, get that disease. He is the author of a bill to withdraw them from the mines and from private employment and to place them on the public roads, thus giving them the benefit of modern theory of penal servitude which aims to make the convict emerge from confinement better in health and in morals than when he went in. Under the present lease system makes the convict a confirmed criminal or incapable. Custodians with whips drive the prisoners to work in the mines like cattle. They would have to be decently treated, it is feared that Governor Kilby will vote to kill because it does not permit the working of convicts in state-owned mines.

GERMAN DELEGATES TO COME

Washington, Sept. 27.—An official dispatch received here from Paris says that the International Labor Organization has announced that the council of five, the governing body of the League of Nations, has decided to permit German representatives to appear before the international labor conference to be held in Washington in October.

The announcement, the dispatch says, followed a conference between Premier Clemenceau, of France, secretary general of the General Labor Federation of France. The dispatch said that the decision is regarded as a great triumph for the federation.

WON UNION SHOP.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 27.—At a meeting between representatives of the Electrical Workers' union and the contractors a strike was adjusted which provides for a union shop. The terms of the settlement are that the men shall be given a 44-cent raise, which would be 75 cents an hour until October 1. Then they will be given 50 cents an hour, and their working conditions will practically amount to a union shop. This was the point these men were fighting for in the beginning and it is considered the strike won if they had secured this point alone.

MOVIE WORKERS OUT.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 27. — Four hundred and fifty stage electricians, carpenters, grippers and property men (members of the International Alliance of Stage Employes and Motion Picture Operators) went out on strike, after negotiations had ended in a victory for the organization, the membership had grown to 1,200 and the craft was 100 per cent organized.

AN ADVANCE SECURED.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 27.—Iron Workers' union has raised wages to $8 a day for journeymen, $6.50 a day for assistant foremen and $10 a day for foremen.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 27.—Structural Iron Workers' district council has secured an advance of $1 a day, making the new rate $8 and $9.

UNIONS NOT TRUSTS DECLARES CONGRESS

Washington, Sept. 27.—The house rejected the senate amendment to Representative Fess of Ohio to the deficiency appropriation bill that provides funds for the prosecution of illegal combinations under the Sherman anti-trust law. The purpose in offering the amendment was to classify the trade unions and farmers' associations with trusts. This he would accomplish by amending the law which says that no money be authorized for the enforcement of the anti-trust law "shall be spent in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any combination or agreement having in view the increase of wages," or "shall be expended for the prosecution of any producers of farm products and associations of farmers, who marketing their products, combine to and for the purpose to obtain and maintain a fair and reasonable price for their products."

These exemptions, which have been carried in the appropriation bills for a number of years, have excited bitter opposition, and those unfriendly to the trade unions and the farmers' associations have never permitted an opportunity to pass to attempt to eliminate them from the appropriation bill.

When the issue was in committee of the whole, Mr. Fess succeeded in having the house adopt his amendment to cut out the appropriation, the vote being 53 to 19. When the bill was reported back to the house the contest was over the amendment offered by Representative Fess.

Following the action of the committee of the whole, representatives of labor and the farmers' associations got busy. As a result of their activities the Fess amendment was defeated. On the demand of Representative Nolan, of California, a member of the committee of the whole, consideration, the section of the deficiency appropriation bill carrying the exemptions was restored by a roll-call vote of 203 to 72.

PAINTERS ADVANCE. .

Temple, Texas, Sept. 27.—Commencing with the 15th inst. the United Painters' Local No. 1,000 union was increased from $5 to $6 per day. The increase was conceded by the contractors after a presentation of the new rates without any contest. That action was probably influenced by the fact that the union has a 100 per cent organization.

Bay City, Mich., Sept. 27.—As the result of a conference between the employing painters and the painters' union, an agreement was reached which terminated a three-weeks' strike. Most of the features of the new rates the pay will be 72 cents an hour, and the 44-hour week prevails. A joint conference committee has been selected to sign up all the employers in the Wheeling district.

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 27.—To-day Stripped Coil No. 1 was put in service. As a result of negotiations with the Cigar Manufacturers' association, the strikers' demands were granted. The action was probably influenced by the fact that the union has a 100 per cent organization.

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WAGE INCREASE SECURED.

San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 27.—Cooks' union No. 44 reports that it has organized practically all of the lunch cafes, restaurants and hospitals in the city and secured for its members an increase in wages ranging from $5 to $9 per cent.

AMSTERDAM CONFERENCE.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The report of Samuel Gompers and Daniel J. Tobin and John J. Hynes, delegates to the Amsterdam conference of the International Federation of Trade Unions, will be published in the October issue of the American Federationist.

It is a most complete resume of the proceedings and should be read by every trade unionist. The success of the American Federation of Labor delegates in framing a charter that will shape the world over along lines following the trade union movement of this country was complete. History will designate the conference as the turning point toward practical progress in the European trade union movement.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS.

Toura, France, Sept. 27.—Honorary President William L. Heller, of the Federation of Teachers' unions of France, sent the following cable to the following greetings, throughout the American Teacher, to the American Federation of Teachers' union:

"I have the honor to transmit to you the greetings of the Federation of Teachers unions of France in convention assembled at Toura, August 10, 1919. The teachers of France wish to convey, through me, an expression of their sympathy for the labor organization brothers and sisters. Like them, they have suffered incessantly for the cause of trade unionism and the emancipation of the teacher from official activities in the schools. In arms, they desire also to be comrades in working for the moral organization which will realize the highest aspirations of humanity. They have devoted to the field of action to accomplish these aims. Once more they extend fraternal greetings to their American comrades and hope that in the future more intimate relations may be established between the teaching forces of America and France. The convention, representative of all France, has officially establishes the first bond of union between the teachers' union of Teachers union of France and the American Federation of Teachers."

INCREASES DEFERRED.

Washington, Sept. 27.—No wage increases will be granted at this time to navy yard employes and those in shipyards engaged on government work representatives of the emergency board composed of the navy department decided at a conference held at the navy department.

After the confe ence, the following statement outlining the attitude of the board was issued:

"In view of the decision of the president in the case of railroad employes that the general subject of readjustments, be left entirely to collective bargaining, pending the efforts being made at the present time to secure the same by legislation, it is deemed unwise at this time to make any increase in wages, as any wage increase would be followed by demands for a similar increase in other industries, which would probably result in a general increase in the cost of living, which would defeat the very purpose of the increase.

"The scale is the last of the so-called Macy board awards. This will apply to all navy yard and construction plants and gulf."

FOUNDRY WORKERS STRIKE.

Manchester, England, Sept. 27.—A conference of iron founders' workers' societies was held in Manchester to review the position in regard to the strike declared by the employers' federation from foundry trade and the probability of a national stoppage of work by the whole of their members, numbering 120,000. It was decided that in view of the failure of their efforts to avoid a national stoppage, they must abide by the decision of their members by vote at the national conference and thus authorize the strike of their members to cease work.

The executive of the employers' federation, at a conference on two occasions, but the employers have declined to confer. The next step is to consider any application for an advance in wages.

SOUTHERN AUTOCRAT.

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 27. A former member of the Macon fire department, who was dismissed therefore by the police chief on orders of the mayor, who stated he had learned that he was attempting to organize a firemen's union here. It was stated he had expressed the intention of going to Atlanta for the purpose of explaining advantages of organization. He will be sent back to Macon.

He declared "there will be no union in Savannah" and that he is the department, and any man joining a union will lose his job immediately."

ACCEPTED THE FINDING.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sept. 27.—When the dispute arose between the Winnipeg electric railway company and the union men in its employ an agreement was made to submit their differences to arbitration. The board awarded the workers a rate of 60 cents an hour for the first six months; 49 cents the second; 52½ cents for the third and 55 cents for the third and all subsequent years. The old rate was 45 cents per a day. The maximum rate previously was 47 cents and the hours nine per day.

SETTLED BY MEDIATION.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 27.—Settlement of the coal dock strike which has been on for several days was brought to a successful termination through the efforts of the conciliation service. Under the new agreement the men are to receive a flat rate for 10 hours' work, or across a scale of wage ranging from 55½ cents an hour to 75½ cents. The old rate was 50 cents an hour increase. The agreement terminates September 15, 1920.

AN ACCEPTABLE RATE.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 27.—Art Glass Workers union No. 18 has reached a satisfactory agreement with employers. The men are to receive 75 cents an hour up to November 1 from that date until September 1, 1920, the wage rate will be 75 cents.

NEW COAL DRIVERS' UNION.

Hamilton, Ontario, Sept. 27.—New union of Coal Drivers and Helpers has been formed here and is working to make itself felt as local factor in trade union movement.

AUTOCRACY OF STEEL TRUST FORCES NATION-WIDE STRIKE

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 27.—The refusal of Judge Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States steel corporation (the trust), to grant a conference to representatives of his employes has precipitated a strike that is almost nationwide and directly involves half a million workers. Within 36 hours after the strike was called the United States senate unanimously passed a resolution to investigate the strike and instructions were immediately forwarded to Judge Gary and John Fitzpatrick, chairman of the national committee, to organize the iron and steel workers.

For the past year a score of national and international unions, acting through this committee, have conducted an organizing campaign in the iron and steel industry. The unionists have been resisted by the well-known tactics of the trust, but despite a denial of the right of free speech, free assemblage and other constitutional rights the workers have been committed to the unions. Recently the committee made formal request to the trust for a conference, that the workers might be organized in a body and their working conditions might be discussed.

Judge Gary declined the request on the ground that the committee did not represent the employes. Later the judge issued a long statement declaring "the open shop," which, he said, his corporation favored, was the right of men who have responded to the strike call, however, seems to have been lost in the trust's plan to make the fight of its choosing—for the so-called open shop and against the shop, which the trust calls "closed" shop.

Many subsidiaries of the trust have closed their plants, although not all of them are parties to the agreement as hopeful as those of General Lu-

COST OF LIVING REPORT.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The bureau of statistics of the department of labor in a report just made public presents an interesting discussion of the high cost of living problem for families whose incomes aggregate from $1,200 to $1,500 in the high cost of living schedule of 51 selected cities in all parts of the United States. A family with the income indicated expended during the past 12 months an average of $594 for food. In Boston the expenditure was $576, in Baltimore, $570; in New York, $603; in Pittsburg, $533; in Philadelphia, $552, in Chicago, $611; in Kansas City, Mo., in San Francisco $614, in Cincinnati, $594, and in St. Louis $597.

The average annual expenditure," says the report, "for food by all the families in the 51 cities was found to be $511. The largest sum, $624, was spent in Fall River, Mass., and the smallest sum, $467, in Savannah, Ga. The cities having the smaller expenditures for food are for the most part in the middle west, with some in the south.

FAVOR NATIONALIZATION.

Lyons, France, Sept. 27.—Resolutions constituting a sort of platform for international labor in Europe, were adopted at the closing session of the Federation of Labor. A large majority was shown in favor of this being considered as an approval of the principles of the labor charter during the war.

The resolutions demand the nationalization of industries under the control of producers and consumers and the nationalization of transportation, mines, water power and banks. They point out that it is not necessary for the nationalization of industries to be functionalism, "with its irresponsibility and constitutional vices." It is declared that by nationalization is meant the confiding of national property to those interested—the most—the producers and consumers.

BUILDING STRIKE ENDS.

Chicago, Sept. 27.—The building trades strike and lockout which involved $16,000,000 worth of new construction contracts aggregating 1,000,000 square feet of floor space, the construction employers yielded to the demands of the carpenters for $1 an hour.

Following the settlement with the carpenters in November, 1918, all other building trades for $1 an hour, presented to the employers after the commencement of the $1-an-hour rate had been granted the striking carpenters, which was refused by the building contractors. Work has been delayed since July 5.

BRITISH HONOR HYNES.

London, England, Sept. 27.—J. Hynes, fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor to the British Trade Union Congress in session here, presented from representatives of the British workmen a handsome gold congress badge. Mrs. Haynes was also presented with a gold chain.

Before adjournment the congress appointed John William Ogden and Jack Jones members of the council from the Lanchouse district of London, to which delegates will be sent the next meeting of American Federation of Labor.

SECURED WAGE INCREASE.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 27. — Employes of the Duluth Street Railway company have been granted an increase in wages of 5 per cent. The new scale provides a minimum wage of 44 cents an hour for 12 months. The scale was 41 cents and prior to August 1 it was 38 cents. There is also a bonus plan of the company more than one year will receive 44 cents an hour instead of 41 cents. Two-year employes will receive, 48 cents an hour and those who have been in the service three years or more will receive 50 cents an hour.

ABOLISHED PIECE WORK.

San Diego, Cal., Sept. 27.—The strike of Tailors' union No. 277 resulted in a complete victory. The increase in wages amounts to $17 per week and the 8-hour day is firmly established. Under the new agreement all piece work is abolished and the 8-hour day and sanitary shops furnished by the employers, with an 8-hour day and a minimum wage rate of $36 for journeymen or women, and $24 for helpers.

MOLDERS WINNING.

Toronto, Canada, Sept. 27.—The firms are gradually signing the agreement which resulted in a strike of the molders May 1. It calls for 75 cents an hour and 44 hours per week.

REACHED AN AGREEMENT.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 27.—A new scale of wages, calling for $8 for day and 46 for night work, has been agreed between representatives of typographical union No. 46 and proprietors of the job shops. Stockton has established a scale of $36 per week, it over the present scale.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 27.—Typographical Union, No. 43, who submitted a scale to the newspaper publishers calling for $35 weekly for day and $39 for night work, have appealed from the decision of the local arbitrators, who decided on a scale of $32 and $35. The appeal goes to the international board of arbitration. Publishers and representatives of the International union.

Erie, Pa., Sept. 27.—Members of the Typographical union have themselves good politicians in the recent municipal election. Two members secured the nominations they sought. Two were named for city council and the third as member of the board. The nominees for council, one was president of the typographical union and the other secretary.

RECALL ADAMSON LAW.

Washington, Sept. 27.—The efforts recently made by railroad executives and orbonds forced congress to pass the Adamson law to prevent the strike that was denied by President Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and other railroad brotherhoods railroad bill which would provide for the nationalization of railroads.

The story was recently denied by former President Garretson of the Order of Railway Conductors before a senate committee.

Washington, Sept. 27.—In response to a senate resolution introduced by Senator Borah, of Idaho, asking for information as to the number of strikes since the signing of the armistice, caused by widely circulated a story that millions of workers were striking because they could not get back to their homes and take with them about $1,000 in bills of their savings, the labor department has only 102,513 reported strikes have been in the United States since the armistice was signed and a total of only 123,832 during the 12 months which have left the United States.

For the five years ended June 30, 1919, 1,517,200 immigrants arrived and 1,172,679 immigrant arrivals for the same period, a statement points out an excess of arrivals over departures of 344,456.

Washington, Sept. 27.—That 1,500,000 residents were preparing to leave the twin city district because of friction with them $5,000,000,000, have disturbed this country," the statement declared.

"The exodus is perfectly natural," said, as is usual in normal times, many will return."

REFUSED DEPORTATION.

San Francisco, Sept. 27.—A general strike of unions of the metal trades is on in Honolulu as a result of the refusal action of one Honolulu firm in discharging a union machinist from the states because of his activities in organizing employes, according to a report brought to this city by a member of Machinists' union No. 6, who says that when the machinist was discharged his fellow employes were so anxious to get rid of him that they presented him, within 24 hours after he was discharged, first-class passage to his city, despite the fact that transportation to or in Honolulu have been waiting, all summer to get transportation to the mainland. The machinist refused to be "deported," and is still on the job. All trade work is said to be tied up by the refusal of the men to return to work until the agitator is deported and all of the unions recognized the right of their employes to organize. Honolulu claims to have to send their work to the mainland.

BRITISH UNIONS INCREASE.

London, England, September 27.—An accepted insurance in membership of British trades unions is shown in the report just issued. Sixty-five unions have made increases during the past year of more than 10,000.

WON THEIR STRIKE.

Cobie, Ore., Sept. 27.—The strike of the timber workers, in progress for the last 30 days, has been won. The company has agreed to pay the scale and to make no move against any of the men for their union activity. The camp will start up at once and will be operated.

The strikes in the other mills and camps in the Columbia have not as yet been settled.

HAVE RESUMED WORK.

Denver, Col., Sept. 27.—A number of the laundry contractors are paying the increased wages demanded by the five weeks' strike. It per hour, while some of the contractors are protesting the payment of the price named, claiming that it should have been arbitrated. Inward of the state industrial commission which fixed the rate at $25 cents per hour.

STRIKE SETTLED.

Denver, Col., Sept. 27.—The strike of the Tailors' union has been settled by the employers accepting the proposed scale of $25.50 per week for tailors and pressers and $27.50 for women helpers. This is an increase per week for pressers of $10 and $7.50 for tailors and helpers.